

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the Office Action, claims 32-44, 46-49, 51-53 and 55 were indicated as allowable; claims 2, 17-20 and 23-24 were objected; and claims 1, 7, 9, 15, 16 and 21 were rejected. Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating the allowability of claims 32-44, 46-49, 51-53 and 55. Claims 2, 17, 23, 25, and 27 have been rewritten in independent form with no changes to their scope in order to respectively include the limitations of the base claims 1, 16, and 21 (base claim 21 was included in claims 23, 25 and 27), and any intervening claims. Accordingly, claims 2, 17, 23, 25, and 27 and their dependent claims should be in condition for allowance. Dependent claims 7, 9, and 15 have been amended to change their dependency from claim 1 to rewritten claim 2. Additionally, claims 1, 16, and 21, have been canceled without prejudice.

In the Office Action, claims 1, 7, 9, 16, and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by the Saurenman et al. reference, U.S. Patent No.: 3,066,739 (“Saurenman et al.”). This rejection is respectfully traversed. However, claims 1, 16, and 21 have been canceled without prejudice, rendering the rejection moot. In addition, claims 7 and 9 have been amended to depend from objected claim 2, which has been rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, claims 7 and 9 should now be in condition for allowance.

In the Office Action, claim 15 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Saurenman et al. in view of Henshaw et al. (U.S. Patent No.: 1, 459,368) (“Henshaw et al.”). This rejection is respectfully traversed. However, claim 15 has also been amended to depend from objected claim 2, which has been rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, claim 15 should now be in condition for allowance.

Payment of \$740 for two additional independent claims, in excess of 8 claims previously paid for, should be charged to Deposit Account No.: 50-0457 (68-0476). No other fees are believed due with this response. However, if this is incorrect, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees (with the exception of issue fees) or to credit any overpayments to the Deposit Account.

In view of the foregoing remarks, pending claims 2, 7, 9, 15, 17-20, 23-28, 32-44, 46-49, and 55 should be in condition for allowance. However, if the Examiner believes certain amendments are necessary to clarify the present claims or if the Examiner wishes to resolve other issues by way of a telephone conference, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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